

**CLAIMS**

1. A contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player during a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to broadcasting, or of an image recorded by a recording media such as a video tape recorder and summarizes it in a required time period so that it can be watched in the required time period, and characterized by comprising an event information obtaining part that obtains event information such as the characteristic motion of the player during the match from the above-mentioned contents, an inside expressing information producing part that produces inside expressing information describing an outline of the match based on the event information, a surface sentence information producing part that produces surface sentence information expressed by a sentence that summarizes the contents based on the inside expressing information, and a contents summary information outputting part that outputs contents summary information wherein the surface sentence information is associated with image information corresponding to the event information.

2. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 1, and characterized by that a user information receiving part that receives user information showing an interest or preference of a user is comprised and that the surface sentence information producing part produces the surface sentence information wherein the interest or preference of the user

is reflected in the inside expressing information based on the user information.

3. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 1 or  
5 claim 2, and characterized by that a text element for  
summary storing part that stores a text element for summary  
comprising a word that can express the development of the  
match or the motion of the player of the contents concerned  
is comprised and that the surface sentence information  
10 producing part produces the surface sentence information  
based on the text element for summary.

4. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 1, claim  
2 or claim 3, and characterized by that the event  
15 information has a hierarchical structure based on a unit  
that can describe the match such as a structure on a rule of  
the sports concerned or the motion of the player.

5. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 1, claim  
20 2, claim 3 or claim 4, and characterized by that the event  
information includes match elapsed time information showing  
progress of the match.

6. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 4 or  
25 claim 5, and characterized by that the contents summary  
information output by the contents summary information  
outputting part is sorted based on an order of the  
hierarchical structure or the match elapsed time.

7. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 1, claim 2, claim 3, claim 4, claim 5 or claim 6, and characterized by that the event information is so arranged to include at least either one of score information that shows a score or  
5 a record, or play event information that shows a characteristic motion of each player.

8. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 1, claim 2, claim 3, claim 4, claim 5, claim 6 or claim 7, and  
10 characterized by that the user information receiving part is so arranged to receive a time period requested to watch by the user, a summary time period checking part that compares the time period requested to watch by the user received by the user information receiving part with a total time period  
15 of the contents summary information output by the contents summary information outputting part is arranged, and if the summary time period checking part judges that the time period requested to watch by the user is smaller than the total time period of the contents summary information, the  
20 contents summary information outputting part compiles the contents summary information to be summarized within the time period requested to watch by the user based on the interest and/or preference of the user received by the user information receiving part and outputs it.

25

9. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 7, and characterized by that a leading degree information producing part that compares score information of one player with

score information of the other player at an arbitrary elapsed time of the match based on the score information and produces leading degree information that expresses a leading degree during development of the match between the above-

5 mentioned one player and the other player is comprised, and that the inside expressing information producing part produces the inside expressing information based on the leading degree information.

10 10. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 9, and characterized by that the leading degree information is information wherein leading degree information at the arbitrary elapsed time of the match is cumulated.

15 11. The contents summarizing unit described in claim 9 or claim 10, and characterized by that the surface sentence information producing part produces the surface sentence information by classifying it into surface sentence match development information in association with the development  
20 of the match expressed by the inside expressing information and surface sentence player motion information in association with the distinguished motion of the player.

12. A contents summarizing unit that extracts a  
25 characteristic motion of a player that shows development of a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to broadcasting, or of an image recorded by a recording media such as a video tape

recorder and summarizes it in a required time period so that it can be watched in the required time period, and characterized by comprising an event information obtaining part that obtains score information showing a point or a record and play event information showing a characteristic motion of each player as being event information from the above-mentioned contents, a leading degree information producing part that compares score information of one player with score information of the other player at an arbitrary elapsed time of the match based on the score information and produces leading degree information that expresses a leading degree during the development of the match between the above-mentioned one player and the other player, an inside expressing information producing part that produces inside expressing information describing an outline of the development of the match based on the leading degree information, a surface sentence information producing part that produces surface sentence information expressed by a sentence that summarizes the contents based on the inside expressing information, and a contents summary information outputting part that outputs contents summary information wherein the surface sentence information is associated with image information corresponding to the event information.

25

13. A contents summarizing program that activates a contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player during a match from contents regarding sports of a

program that is on the air, of a material image prior to  
broadcasting, or of an image recorded by a recording media  
such as a video tape recorder and summarizes it in a  
required time period so that it can be watched in the  
5 required time period by operating a computer, and  
characterized by making the computer serve as an event  
information obtaining means that obtains event information  
such as the characteristic motion of the player during the  
match from the above-mentioned contents, an inside  
10 expressing information producing means that produces inside  
expressing information describing an outline of the match  
based on the event information, a surface sentence  
information producing means that produces surface sentence  
information expressed by a sentence that summarizes the  
15 contents based on the inside expressing information, and a  
contents summary information outputting means that outputs  
contents summary information wherein the surface sentence  
information is associated with image information  
corresponding to the event information.

20

14. A contents summarizing program that activates a contents  
summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a  
player that shows development of a match from contents  
regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a  
25 material image prior to broadcasting, or of an image  
recorded by a recording media such as a video tape recorder  
and summarizes it in a required time period so that it can  
be watched in the required time period by operating a

computer, and characterized by making the computer serve as  
an event information obtaining means that obtains score  
information showing a point or a record and play event  
information showing a characteristic motion of each player  
5 as being event information from the above-mentioned contents,  
a leading degree information producing means that compares  
score information of one player with score information of  
the other player at an arbitrary elapsed time of the match  
based on the score information and produces leading degree  
10 information that expresses a leading degree during  
development of the match between the above-mentioned one  
player and the other player, an inside expressing  
information producing means that produces inside expressing  
information describing an outline of the development of the  
15 match based on the leading degree information, a surface  
sentence information producing means that produces surface  
sentence information expressed by a sentence that summarizes  
the contents based on the inside expressing information, and  
a contents summary information outputting means that outputs  
20 contents summary information wherein the surface sentence  
information is associated with image information  
corresponding to the event information.